FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 MAY 1986

U.S. Ship Fired On

The Beirut paper *AL-SAFIR* cited by KUNA reported that a U.S. ship was fired on while passing through the Suez Canal 13 May, and revealed that the Egyptian security forces arrested a "young man" in connection with the shooting while he was driving on a road along the canal in a prohibited military zone.

Libya

The Foreign Liaison Bureau People's Committee informed the Arab ambassadors accredited to the Jamahiriyah of Libya's dismay at the Arab League's failure to convene an emergency Arab summit or to adopt practical measures to confront the recent U.S. and EEC actions, Tripoli radio reported. The People's Committee defended Libya's "principled and firm" stance regarding the "fateful" issues facing the Arab nation, including the Gulf war, and asserted that using its stance on the Gulf War as a pretext is either due to ignorance or is an "exposed attempt" to "cover up the silence, defeatism, and intrigues" characterizing the stands of some Arab countries toward the U.S.-NATO policy against Libya. The People's Committee warned that Libya will "reconsider" its "link" with the Arab League and seek "alliance" with a "power" opposed to the United States unless that organization adopts "practical" measures to respond to the U.S.-NATO "aggression," including severing ties with the United States and the United Kingdom as a minimum. The Committee also threatened a change in Libya's position vis-a-vis the Gulf war if measures are not adopted, which "in practice" would find the Jamahiriyah aligned with Iran.

"Informed sources" in Tripoli rebutted allegations by the Rome paper *LA REPUBBLICA* that Libya "had relations" with the Red Brigades, JANA reported. The agency's political affairs editor, in the same report, affirmed Libya's strong rejection of establishing ties with "terrorist" organizations, which the editor claimed are used by certain European governments to further their own aims, and asserted that the Jamahiriyah has fought and continues to fight "organized" terrorism.

Iran-Iraq War

Many Iraqi vehicles were destroyed and 200 Iraqis aboard them were killed during an Iranian artillery bombardment of the Al Basra-Abu al-Khasib military road, according to IRNA. The report claimed that the attack was in retaliation for Iraq's air attack on a passenger train 14 May. Meanwhile, another IRNA report updated the casualty figure in the train attack to 61 dead and 270 injured.

In continuing fighting in the Haj 'Umran area, a military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that over 1,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded during a "heavy" battle the night of 15 May, bringing the number of Iraqi casualties in 3 days of fighting there to more than 3,500. On the other hand, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 15 May asserted that two Iranian infantry companies were wiped out during an Iranian counterattack against positions recently captured by Iraq in that area.

In air action, a communique cited by IRNA 16 May reported that Iranian fighters bombed an Iraqi helicopter center west of Rawanduz, in Iraq's Irbil Province, and inflicted heavy materiel and personnel damage. Another IRNA report asserted that Iranian planes prevented an Iraqi fighter from violating Tehran's airspace 15 May. For Iraq's part, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio 16 May divulged that the Iraqi Air Force delivered an accurate and effective hit on a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast.

Iran-Syria

The Dubayy paper *AL-BAYAN* disclosed 15 May that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has "urged" his Iranian counterpart to end "military provocations" against Gulf installations and shipping, especially those belonging to Saudi Arabia. Citing "informed Arab sources," the paper reported that the recent visit of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Iran primarily focussed upon Iran's military actions against Saudi oil tankers and the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon. "Arab diplomatic sources" in Tehran also contended that Syria "demanded" that Iran cease its actions against Saudi interests, according to *AL-BAYAN*.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti paper *ARAB TIMES* 14 May described current Syrian-Iranian relations as passing through a "difficult phase," and asserted that there have been "several indications" from Damascus pointing to a "real" change in Syria's position vis-a-vis the Gulf war. "Informed sources" cited by the paper expressed fears that the Iranian-Syrian "conflict" could mushroom into a "huge" confrontation between the Hizballah and Amal militias.

In other developments, the Beirut magazine *LA REVUE DU LIBAN*, citing "informed sources," alleged that Syria has detained approximately 20 Hizballah members in Ba'labakk City on charges of killing a Syrian soldier "last week," clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Syria-Israel

"Diplomatic sources" in Damascus cited by QNA revealed that Syria "will begin a diplomatic move" toward several Arab and Gulf countries to inform their leaders of the U.S.-Israeli "threats" and of the "possibility" of an Israeli-launched U.S.-backed "aggression" against it in the Golan Heights or in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley.

For Israel's part, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin termed Syria's "potential" to directly threaten Israel as "real," in a speech to the Labor Party convention, but added that Syria "is

far" from attaining "strategic parity" with Israel, IDF radio reported. In the same speech, Rabin claimed that Syria "was involved" in the Rome and Vienna airport attacks as well as in the attempt to place a bomb on an El Al airliner in London. Jeruslaem radio cited Israeli Land Forces Commander General Amir Drori's assertion that the new Syria fortifications in southern Lebanon must be viewed as another Syrian step in its preparations for war, but added that this is a "long process" not being marked by any developments.

Jordan

"Informed sources" cited by the Israeli paper *THE JERUSALEM POST* asserted that Palestinian pro-Fatah elements "dissatisfied" with the growing Jordanian-Syrian "cooperation" against the PLO "apparently" were behind the recent disturbances at Yarmuk University. The sources described the riots as an "alarm bell" for King Husayn, whose security forces had been successful until now in suppressing all "latent" unrest.

Meanwhile, final examinations at the university were suspended "until further notice," the school's Public and Cultural Relations Department announced, according to Amman television.

In an editorial on the "agonizing" incidents at the university, the Amman paper *AL-DUSTUR* urged everyone to exercise self-control and to calm the situation, and called on students to "remove" all those in their ranks that support riot and unrest. In another editorial, the Amman paper *AL-RA'Y*, while expressing profound sorrow for the victims of the fighting, nevertheless insisted that such incidents should not be repeated and declared that it should be a lesson to all those intent on tampering with the country's security or stability.

PLO

An "informed Palestinian source" claimed that Fatah, PFLP, and DFLP representatives currently meeting in Algiers have "overcome huge obstacles" in the way of a proposed "National Unity Conference" scheduled to be held in the Algerian capital during the latter half of Ramadan, KUNA reported. In another development, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, in an interview carried by Radio Monte Carlo, reported "progress" in Palestinian-Syrian relations, and predicted that "this misunderstanding" will be overcome soon. Qaddumi, who gave the interview following his talks with the French external relations minister in Paris, asserted that the PLO has "no difference" with Jordan, but only with the United States.

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf reaffirmed earlier pronouncements of a plan for a "very intensified" increase in "fedayeen" operations inside the "occupied territories," in a statement to the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS*, cited by KUNA. The Fatah official "categorically" denied that he and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil had discussed the return of Palestinian forces to Lebanon via Juniyah or any other route, during their recent meeting.

Qatar-Bahrain

"Diplomatic sources" in London cited by the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN and reported by Tehran radio's Arabic service*, disclosed that Bahrain has reinforced its positions on the Harwar islands and along its coast in recent days, and cancelled all military leave. The report also noted Qatari measures against Bahrain including the deportation of Bahraini students to their country. *AL-WATAN* further claimed that the Fasht al-Dibal Island installations attacked by Qatari aircraft last month belonged to the GCC and monitored ship movements in the Persian Gulf in order to notify them of possible air strikes.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan lodged a "strong" protest with Afghanistan over a 10 May Afghan air attack on Domandi area, Baluchistan, in which 1 Afghan refugee was killed and two others were wounded, and for artillery attacks on 13 and 14 May near Parachinar, Khurram Agency and near Tiwar Kotal, respectively, according to Karachi radio.

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Najibullah Addresses Kabul City Party Meeting

LD152201 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 14 May (BAKHTAR) — Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, took part today in a plenary session of the Kabul City Party Committee. It was held in support of the decisions of the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum. He delivered the following comprehensive speech:

Esteemed comrades. We have recently celebrated the 8th anniversary of the April Revolution, thus beginning the 9th year of the development of and progress for revolutionary Afghanistan. The PDPA and all the toiling people of Afghanistan are successfully continuing to implement the planned objectives and tasks of the national democratic April Revolution. National democratic, antifeudal and anti-imperialist transformations are the paths which we have chosen; we are consistently going ahead on this path. Today, we can confidently say that revolutionary process is developing in the country in the required direction. The party, by overcoming difficulties, is continuously and unswervingly implementing the objectives and aspirations of the victorious April Revolution. I should add that the PDPA, on the basis of all-round analysis and assessments, has perfected its policy and will specify and enrich the forms and methods of its implementation.

The 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum pointed out that struggle for the expansion and strengthening of the social basis of people's power, an end to bloodshed, the consolidation of peace and tranquility in the land of ancient Afghanistan, and readiness for useful and objective cooperation with all patriots and democrats of our homeland are those policy tasks and requirements whose implementation are essential for all party members and true patirots. During the 7 months after the plenum, the whole life of the party was dedicated to this task. The Armed Forces have been strengthened. Recent victorious operations in Khowst showed their significant capabilities and the new qualitative level of activity. The work for safeguarding the borders, especially those with Pakistan, is going ahead, and we have strengthened work with the tribes.

It is necessary for us to consolidate and expand these victories. At present, 64 percent of party members are armed and directly taking part in the defense of the country. We can say with pride that the PDPA is a militant party, and it is correct that our people demand from us, from party members, an immediate end to bloodshed, the crushing of counterrevolutionary elements and the consolidation of a peaceful and tranquil life. We ought to employ all measures, including military, social, economic, political and international measures in order to secure these objectives. We actively support talks for the political solution of problems around the DRA, including the Geneva talks.

The main aspect of the socioeconomic development of the DRA for 1986-90, that is, the first 5-year plan after the revolution, was approved and received legal status as a creative plan and an inspiring program for social and national progress whose special importance and great mobilizing power was stressed by the leaders of the Soviet Government during the Moscow visit by Comrade Keshtmand.

I would like here to speak about Afghan-Soviet friendship. There was not and is not such a strong brotherhood in the world. The 27th CPSU Congress once again approved our efforts in the revolutionary struggle. We give our profound gratitude to the Leninist Party and to the Soviet people — these true internationalists — for selfless and unprecedented large-scale assistance during all these years. For us party members to believe in the aims of this friendship, whose bases were laid down by our heroic fathers, is a very important criteria of our true revolutionary assessment.

Comrades, the 18th PDPA Central Committee plenum is a great event in our sociopolitical and party life. As you know, the allocation of the posts of PDPA Central Committee general secretary and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council were decided at the plenum. The plenum approved the request of Comrade Babrak Karmal to resign from the position of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee on health grounds. He remains member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and president of the Revolutionary Council.

The role of Comrade Babrak Karmal in the Sawr revolution is crystal clear. He linked all his life and activity with the PDPA. Comrade Karmal played a very great role in the work of the Central Committee plenums, the convocation of the nationwide conference of the party, and in the drafting of the 10 Theses and the Revolutionary Council Declaration.

However, the implementation of the decisions of the 16th and 17th Plenums, the speedy and serious realization of the Revolutionary Council Declaration and the reconstruction of all organizational and political work of state and party organs necessitate and demand much work, the speeding up of activity, and the assessment of situations in localities. The volume of Revolutionary Council work has greatly increased due to local elections and the consolidation of state power in localities.

Party work has also increased. Our party has become a party of 155,000 members. The leading and guiding role of the party in all aspects of society has been enhanced. The number of members of social organizations in the NFF has been increased from 50,000 to 760,000.

The plenum enriched the current process of the strengthening and consolidation of the principles of collective leadership of the PDPA. The decisions of the PDPA Central Committee Plenum has great value in the completion of state and party structure. The present expansion and type of tasks and problems demand that the role of collectivism should be enhanced in the work of the high organs of the leadership. It is necessary that the fields of activity should be divided in a logical manner so that the Revolutionary Council, headed by Comrade Babrak Karmal, can concentrate on the work of the state new organs and its leadership through the absorption of the best representatives of the country's patriotic forces; and the Council of Ministers, under the leadership of Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, can concentrate and can be devoted to the improvement of the work of the ministries and affairs related to the implementation of the economic policy of the party.

Special attention should be paid to the leadership over the broadening and consolidation of the PDPA. Of course the general secretary should devote all his energy to this task. Our party is a ruling party and the party must embrace the unity of action of all groups of our social and political system.

Because of this the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and later the 18th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee approved unanimously Comrade Karmal's proposal. All those who addressed this plenum mentioned Comrade Karmal's services to the country and the revolution and welcomed the fact that he will actively continue his duty as a member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

In accordance with the proposal of the Politburo put forward by Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, the plenum unanimously approved the subject of the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. Availing myself of this happy opportunity, I thank from the bottom of my heart all party members and toilers of Kabul City for all those warm greetings which have arrived collectively and individually from the city party committee, ward committees, party primary organizations, collectives, and families. Thanks to you all dear comrades. I assure you that all my life will be dedicated as before to our beloved party, to the aspirations of the April Revolution and to our honorable and toiling people without any hesitation.

The 18th Plenum manifested the party unity, maturity, wisdom and the closeness of its ranks around the Central Committee and the increasing maturity of the leadership cadres and the continuation of its policy and the party and people's readiness to continue the sacred cause of the April Revolution until complete victory.

Comrades, V.I. Lenin taught that the role of leading fighter can be performed only by a party which is equipped with the leading revolutionary theory. Today, we have chosen the precise and clear strategy of gradual development. We have what could be sufficient for practical activities. The revolutionary party possesses the powerful weapon of theory. The action program of the PDPA and the documents of the 18 plenums of the Central Committee all comprise the solid political base and the source of our activities. The party will continue to solve fundamentally and in an all-round manner the theoretical issues of the April Revolution and its new phase. Here continuity is of special importance. We will condemn unfounded moves toward forward, blatent leftism and creeping opportunism and lack of inclination for resolute and revolutionary action according to the situation. We will not permit anyone to distort and revise our revolutionary theory and (?bring) revisionism.

Recent investigations and assessments indicate that the principal shortcoming in our work is the lack of active performance. Despite the fact that we have a profound strategy and comprehensive theory, we are weak in the tactical and practical sphere. Most of the grand thoughts and plans (envisaged) get drowned in words and remain on paper.

As a whole, in all circumstances the power of the party committees is sufficient to explain these plans to the people, but their work is insufficient for their implementation. The practical aspects have remained apart from our guidelines.

In this way a gap has been created between words and actions and signs of stagnation and retardation have emerged in various areas, which should not be there. The task of struggle against the enemies and the task of advancing revolutionary transformation are clear. We should be transformed into men of action and a party of action; we should be transformed into men of revolutionary deeds and the party of revolutionary actions. Today we need specific work; specific work and specific work again; problems grow quicker than their solutions. Many vital great issues have come up which demand solution. They should not be set aside or postponed or dragged into fruitless talk. They should be solved today!

The party members put forward some questions which relate to work with the peasants and the intensification of work with peasants in the villages. The Central Committee intends to consider these matters in its routine plenum.

In these conditions the leading role of the party and the role of the party members becomes more important. The party will, in the future, outline the strategy of movement of the party and will point out its aims and tasks. The party will consistently implement, together with the state organs and social organizations, the strategy of the tasks outlined. The party will strengthen and harden control over the execution of its plans and resolutions.

Unfortunately, our energy so far was limited to the drafting of tasks. Work in connection with the implementation of the envisaged plans was in a poor state and the control of their implementation was even worse. This state of affairs should be ended at all costs. The strength of power lies in the fact that all matters should be transformed from words to actions. Where does the effectiveness of a party organization lie? It is in its capability of formulating matters and their solution among the masses of the people.

Take as an example why the control work has been left without due supervision. Its manifestations are many. However, we do not go by the manifestations. The substance is hidden in objective reasons, first of all the lack of control and investigation of the party activity by the departments of the Central Committee, the provincial party committees, and the city committees.

Specifically, a sympathetic but unprincipled approach toward the assessment of the work of state organs and social organization is continuing to grow. Self-criticism and the principle of criticism by party members has not reached a sufficient level. Another reason lies in the level of investigation and the fear of responsibility. Negative manifestations, negative influences, tribal and relationship links and the remnants of ethnic relations, have been more openly felt in this regard. Some officials have forgotten that there is only one law in the party for all.

So why are the staffs of the party Central Committee and the provincial committees afraid of such individuals who are the relations of senior bosses; why do they flatter them? Comrades, this is a dreadful phenomenon! Kings and their lackeys knowingly divided people into clans, nationalities, and tribes, into relatives or strangers or subordinates. They had only one declared and

exploitative aim: to divide and rule. We should unite the people on the basis of honesty, justice, and principle. Our task is to nurture revolutionary and patriotic unity around the party and its Central Committee. Because of this, all possibilities exist which manifest the new political system of our Afghan society, primarily, the National Fatherland Front which was created for this reason.

In the struggle for unity the correct implementation of national policy should not be forgotten. We should respect all nationalities, clans, and tribes of our country. Ensuring the equality of rights of all nationalities, no matter how big or small they are, should embrace all aspects of our party work. Education and training, newspapers, and radio broadcasts in their mother tongues, development of the economy and culture, and taking into consideration their customs and traditions during the distribution of land and water are all elements of our realistic national policy. The state supports the traditional self-rule of the tribes, and will defend the honor, prestige, and property of each tribal family and their residential areas. We will prevent efforts aimed at sowing seeds of discord among various tribes and disrupting the historic relations between the tribes living on both sides of the border. Achieving people's unity should take place in accordance with the principled solutions of issues related to social justice.

Not only members of the Politburo and the Central Committee but every party member should fight against bribery and embezzlement. Where are we? A few years ago criminals were immediately sent to prison for a small theft, but now they are merely warned and scolded: Steal, but know your limit, and do not take more than the others. Those pickpockets who violate people's property and have stolen millions of afghanis are freely wandering about. They poison honest people and corrupt them and boast that one should live like this. How many people have received state apartments while renting out their own houses in order to accumulate wealth?

Two days ago I met the workers of Jangalak factory. They told me directly: Comrade Najib, we support the decisions of the 18th Plenum of the Central Committee, the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, and you. But when will the party finally hear and support our demands? I replied that the Politburo will hear their demands, and will support them; it will reply to everything, whether bad or good. The 17th Plenum of the Central Committee commissioned the party Control Commission to investigate all violations, and we will firmly follow this policy.

Our aim is an irreconcilable and uncompromising struggle against those who disrupt athe true and pure life. The authority of the party depends completely on the authorty and trust of every party member. The most important matter is the fact that laziness, stagnation and delays should be eliminated from the path of the practical realization of thought, standards and regulations, and of lessons to be learned, to a large extent, from experience. We need to put pressure on principled matters toward perfecting the ways and methods of work. Fear of work should not exist and we should devote ourselves to the work of the people.

Shortcomings should be strongly criticized. Criticism and self-criticism are necessary for us like air and water; only the weak staff and members are afraid of them and create obstacles in their way.

The Politburo hopes that Kabul City and its party organization will be an example for solving all the existing questions. Often we say that the capital is the heart of the country. The task of a heart, as it is known, is to move new and life-giving blood to all parts of the body. The present duty of activists of the party committee of the country's capital is to be an example for all party members throughout Afghanistan, and to in the vangaurd in the reconstruction of the party and of political work. Much work has been accomplished in recent months toward the realization of the decisions of the 16th and 17th Central Committee Plenums and 50 new party organizations have been formed. The ranks of social organizations have, to a large extent, been completed, and the social pillars of the revolutionary power are being broadened. The Central Committee thanks the toilers, party committees and responsible officials for the implementation of the state plan and the role that they and the people of Kabul City have played in strengthening the country's Armed Forces, and the performance of party cadres as devoted sacrificers to party work, and fully supports the leadership of the party city committee in this regard.

I would like to touch upon some other points: The new structuring of the party and political work is advancing inadmissibly slowly. Ideological influences have not been effected on various strata of the people. A certain section of party activists and party members have not comprehended the essence of those new demands put forward at the 16th Central Committee Plenum, that is, matters related to ending bloodshed, consolidating national reconciliation, uniting all nationalities and strata of society, eliminating counterrevolutionary secret cells, and establishing peaceful conditions.

I remember a sad story of a worker, Kaka Abdol Hamid, of the Jangalak plant, who said that his brother was killed in front of him and his property looted by the rebels in Paghman. Do not the Kabul city toilers, particularly the party members, have the power to establish order in the city suburbs and in the villages of Kabul Province? This power exists and should be rationally applied.

Recruitment in Kabul City is advancing weekly. The plan for March-April has been [as received] fulfilled.

Comrades. Begin work! We are under severe criticism. Most party organizations work in isolation from those problems that create anxiety for the people. And party members are engaged in settling personal differences and placing their friends and relations in high posts.

Despite the limited possibilities, the PDPA and the DRA are working hard to provide facilities for youths' education. In high educational establishments and in Kabul City schools almost 100,000 students are engaged in learning. However, most events and trends concerning youth should be of concern to party members. What are the reasons for the fact that only 17 percent of students in higher education establishments, 3 percent in the Medical Institute, and only 6 percent in the pedagogic institutes are members of the Democratic Youth Organization of

Afghanistan. What type of teacher do we train? The city party committee, party committees, the Ministry of Higher Education and Training, perhaps do not work sufficiently with teachers and lecturers. Great attention should be paid to Kabul University. This source of enlightenment, the foundation of which was laid 40 years ago, has trained many generations of our revolutionaries, patriots, democrats and intellectuals. We are fully aware of the benefits of intellectuals, and will pay attention to them. Elections will begin in the near future at the Academy of Sciences, and measures will be taken concerning the material interests of the intellectuals. We believe that intellectuals realize their role in revolutionary aspirations and in the revolution, and will actively and with great energy, struggle for the prosperity of their own people.

Youth should stand in the center of all training work. The forces of revolution can only be obtained from the cadres of youth and new forces. The DYOA will be 10 years old in two weeks. The DYOA is today the party's combat reservoir and assistant in the performance of its affairs. We are looking forward to the participation of our youth in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and in solving the present questions of revolution.

Moreover, the city party committees and the ward party committees, city and local jirgas, ministries, departments and the relevant branches of the Central Committee must, in the economic area, pass to specific leadership from the level of words. It is necessary that the needs of artisans, tradesmen, shopkeepers and the staff of cooperative trades should be precisely assessed and their efforts in supplying Kabul citizens with foodstuffs and primary goods at the available prices for the majority, should be directed. We realize the fact that prices have risen. We should think of how to stop them from rising further. Kabul today should have a high standard in the area of health services, cleanliness and welfare of the people.

In order to solve the most important social and economic problems of the capital, it is necessary that traders, investors and patriotic private entreprenuers should be further attracted. In the complex phases of revolutionary activities, it is necessary that the collective rationale of the party organizations should be relied upon and their opinions should be considered. Hasty conclusions and arbitrary and irresponsible explanations of the party documents and events should be prevented. The capital has always been called the core of maturity of the party cadres. And truly the people of all provinces, in order to obtain opinions and actions, turn their eyes this way (?toward the capital). Yet more assistance should be given to the cadres and (?forces should be formed.)

You have often decided on the recruitment and call up of the party members. Let us implement this decision. We should remember that we should have a love of accomplishing this work. What sort of revolutionaries are those who are stuck to their chairs for years and years and never leave their offices? The ability to heartily accept all tasks of the party is the sign of political maturity. We shall judge individuals' loyalty to the people and revolution on this criteria.

The Politburo is confident that the Kabul City party organization in the future also, will play a special role in maintaining unity in the party ranks. Undoubtedly, today's plenum will open a new page in the life in the party organization of the capital.

There are many tasks, and talking about those talks means their implementation. [as received] The time for words is gone and the time for specific activity of every Afghan, collective, primary organization and party member has arrived. Forward with work, comrades!

PDPA Central Committee Congratulates CPCZ CC

LD160652 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 15, BAKHTAR — The Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) has sent a felicitation message addressed to the Central Committee of Communist Party of Czechoslovakia on the occasion of the 65th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

The message says that under the wise and principled leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic achieved great successes in economic field, therefore, Czechoslovakia stands in the rank of progressive countries of the world.

After the April Revolution, the message points out, the traditional friendly and historic relations between the parties, peoples and Governments of the DRA and Czechoslovakia were elevated on the basis of the principle of proletarian internationalism and revolutionary solidarity. It will further develop in the future in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and peace and security all over the world.

Punjab Governor Holds Talks With President

BK151609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] The governor of Punjab, Mr S.S. Ray, called the President Giani Zail Singh at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] this morning. The meeting lasted about an hour.

President's Ordinance on Commission of Inquiry

BK151607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance which provides that the government need not present to the Lok Sabha or state legislative assembly the report of the Commission of Inquiry within 6 months. The government can do so if laying of the report is not in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of the country, the security of the state, friendly relations with other countries or public interest. The ordinance amends Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act for this purpose.

The government will be required to issue a notification in the official gazette and its copy will be placed before the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly for its approval.

Minister Briefs Parliament on Union Carbide Case

BK141615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] It was officially stated in the Rajya Sabha today that it should be possible to seek enforcement in the United States of a judgment that may be given by an Indian court on the compensation to be paid for the Bhopal gas disaster. The minister of state for industry, Mr Arunachalam, said the assests of the Union Carbide Corporation, USA, necessary to satisfy our claims, are located in that country.

He was making the statement on the decision of a U.S. judge that the case be tried in India. He pointed out that the judge has coupled his decision with certain important conditions imposed on Union Carbide. The question resposing [as heard] these conditions if the case has to be tried in India had been raised by government attorneys in January last.

Mr Arunachalam said only the operative part of the decision of the U.S. judge has been received. He assured the house that the government will take prompt and effective action to deal speedily with the claims of the Bhopal victims.

After the statement, some members urged the government to ensure that the legal process in India does not take too long time. If possible, the case should be taken straight to the Supreme Court.

Border Forces Shoot 4 Infiltrators From Pakistan

BK150319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Four infiltrators who tried to enter the country from Pakistan were killed by the Border Security Force [BSF] yesterday.

According to information received in New Delhi, the BSF challenged six persons in the (Mulakot) area in Amritsar sector of Punjab. The intruders started firing at the BSF personnel who returned the fire in self-defense.

Gandhi Makes 5-Day Tour of Southern Africa

For reportage on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 5-day tour of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, and Tanzania, including talks on South Africa and Namibia, see the Southern Africa section of the 14 May Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

BANGLADESH

AFP Reports 13 May Village Raid by Insurgents

BK160819 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 16 (AFP) — Tribal insurgents killed at least 14 people and wounded more than 50 in a midnight raid on a village in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong hill tracts, press reports here said Friday [16 May]. Newspapers quoted official sources in Chittagong as saying that members of the outlawed Shanti Bahini insurgents raided Fatema Nagar village in Khagrachari District Tuesday. Some newspapers quoting unofficial sources said the insurgents killed more than 50 villagers, mostly Bengali settlers in the rugged hilly jungle district, and wounded more than 50.

The guerrillas made a similar raid on April 29 in the same district, killing at least 38 and wounding more than 150. The insurgents and have been active since the early 1970's demanding greater autonomy for the nearly 13,000 square kilometer (5,200 square mile) district that borders Burma and India. Officials estimate that more than 6,000 troops, settlers and insurgents have been killed.

Weeklies Banned for 'Objectionable Articles'

BK151647 Hong Kong AFP in English 1626 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 15 (AFP) — The Bangladesh martial law authorities have banned three opposition weeklies and seized copies of the latest edition of a fourth for publishing objectionable articles, an official announcement said Thursday. *EKOTA*, which belongs to the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Bangladesh, was banned for publishing an article titled "Massive Mandate Against Martial Law" after last week's general election. Two other weeklies, *SANGBADIK* and *AMADER ATHA* were banned for publishing articles against the martial law regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. The authorities also confiscated all copies of the weekly *JHARNA*, which supports the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The BNP boycotted the polls, saying free and fair elections could not be held under martial law.

The governing Jatiya Party looked set for victory in the polls, with 134 of the 300 seats after 266 unofficial results had been announced by the Election Commission. Voting was suspended in 36 constituencies amid reports of fraud and violence, and re-polling is due to be complete by Monday.

NEPAL

Intimidation in General Elections Charged

BK141022 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 14 May 86

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, May 14 (AFP) — Candidates Wednesday charged that government officials had intimidated voters and taken over some polling centers during voting in Nepal's general election Monday. About 65 per cent of the country's nine million registered voters took part in the poll Monday which was seen as a crucial test of the country's 25-year-old partyless Panchayat (parliament) system. Vote counting was under way Wednesday and some voters were casting ballots after polling, interrupted Monday in several districts, was resumed. Reports said that the voting was generally peaceful but some candidates complained about the actions of government officials.

Former Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa said that in his eastern Dhankuta constituency, the district police officer assigned to maintain order during the voting Monday had taken over polling centers in Hile, Balara and Leberbota. He described the situation in his district as tense, warning it could become explosive if the count went against him as he knew he had voters' strong support. A similar report was received from the district of Morang where another former prime minister, Matrika Prasad Koirala, was standing for election. Government officials had intimidated voters not to cast their ballot for Mr. Koirala, sources said.

Prominent journalist Padma Thakurathi, running for office in the southwestern Kanchanpur District, said he expected to lose the election because officials had prevented his supporters from voting. Some officials in eastern Nepal had tampered with ballot boxes while they were being transported to district headquarters, other reports said. Reports from Mahottari said that candidate Sharad Singh Bhandari had been detained by police for more than eight hours on election day Monday in an apparent attempt to intimidate his supporters. Allegations from prominent supporters of the Panchayat system of official vote-rigging differed sharply from Prime Minister Nagendra Prasad Rijal's view that there had been no irregularities. He countered the charges by saying weak candidates always complain of official interference during elections.

Voters cast their ballots Monday in 73 of the country's 75 districts which elect 112 members to the national Panchayat (parliament). King Birendra appoints a further 28 to the assembly which does not have political parties. Polling was largely peaceful, with a much higher voter turnout than is usual in developing countries, analysts said. Not all of Nepal's 9.03 million registered voters went to the polls Monday, however, as voting in two districts was postponed until later this month because two candidates died during the election campaign. Voters in the Syangja and Kaski districts will cast their ballots on May 19 and 26 respectively. Counting of the votes is done manually and final results are to be announced within two weeks, Election Commission sources said.

Former Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha is leading in his Katmandu constituency, while former Commerce and Industry Minister Parsu Narayan Chaudhury is trailing a challenger in the contest in the southwestern Dang District. Former Education Minister Fate Singh Tharu took an early lead in his western constituency of Banke.

Repolling was completed Tuesday in seven of the 26 polling centers where it had been halted Monday following technical errors and clashes between rival supporters. Repolling at the remaining centers is to take place Wednesday and Thursday.

Thapa Reported Victor

BK151340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] In Nepal, the former prime minister, Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa, has been declared elected from the Dhankuta constituency. Others declared elected today are Mr Govind Dwal from the ancient town of Bhaktpur, Mr Kasinath Gautam from Ardhakanchi in western Nepal, and Mr Rudra Prasad Sherchand from northern Nepal. Of the eight results received so far, there are four new faces. Polling washeld on Monday in 73 districts for 108 seats of the partyless Rashtriya Panchayat.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Asks Quick Solution of Ethnic Issue

BK141139 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] President Jayewardene told Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit that he wanted a quick solution to the ethnic problem and that the solution should be fair and acceptable to all Lankans. Mr Dixit said that on responding to a question on the substance of his discussions with the president on Monday [12 May] night. The high commissioner called on the president soon after his return from Delhi. Mr Dixit said that he reported on discussions the Indian negotiating team headed by Minister of State P. Chidambaram had with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and others. The Indian Government felt that Colombo's formulations were progressive and wanted a few additional ideas to help improve the package. He also conveyed India's concern about the escalating scale of violence and made specific reference to the condemnation of bomb attack on the Air Lanka jetliner and the CTO [Central Telegraph Office]. He said he urged the government to work out a quick solution which will end the violence.

Tamil Group Agrees To Hold Ethnic Talks

BK141137 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] is reported to have indicated that it is willing to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. LANKA PUWATH quoted well-informed sources as saying that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam led by Prabhakaran, who were against the settlement of any kind, were now trying to eliminate the EPRLF.

Security Measures Stepped Up Due to Terrorism

BK151439 Hong Kong AFP in English 1406 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Colombo, May 15 (AFP) — Extra security measures have been put in place in Sri Lankan public buildings to counter possible bomb attacks by militant Tamil separatists, the government announced Thursday. "Make no mistake. The terrorists are waiting to strike again," National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said at a press conference. The Sri Lankan Defense Minsitry has ordered all government departments, schools, banks and state offices to implement new security guidelines drawn up by defense officials, the national secuirty minister said. The tightened security precautions follow bomb attacks by Tamil militants on an Air Lanka jetliner at Colombo International Airport on May 3 and on a central telecommunications complex four days later. More than 30 people died in the bombings.

Mr. Athulathmudali also confirmed that the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA), with support fro the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), two of the many militant groups campaigning for an independent Tamil state, were responsible for the Air Lanka bombing. Seventeen people, mainly West European vacationers, died when the Air Lanka jetliner exploded shortly before takeoff. Mr. Athulathmudali said that the government expected more bomb attacks by militants, especially TEA, LTTE and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) guerrillas. The LTTE is determined to wreck all peaceful efforts at settling the ethnic issue, Mr. Athulathmudali said, adding that it must be made very clear to the organization that a military victory is not possible. Recent factional fighting in the Jaffna peninsula between the LTTE and a rival group, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO), has increased support there for a peaceful resolution of the Tamil question, he added. But current negotiations through Indian mediation should be carried out at the informal level rather than through formal discussions, he said.

Reminding newswmen of this week's terrorist attack in Jakarta and earlier rocket attacks in Tokyo, Mr. Athulathmudali said that democratically-elected governments must help other democratic governments fight terrorism. "We must move on a broad front against terrorism," he said, adding that the British Government and others had been helpful to Sri Lanka in this effort.

Mr. Athulathmudali also said that while the Sri Lankan Government has had no formal contact with the South African Government, there have been trade contacts. He was answering a question about the reported purchase of weapons from South Africa for the armed forces.

The national security minister also disclosed that the LTTE has acquired some new weapons, but said he did not believe it has obtained SAM-7 missiles.

Further Reportage on Iraqi Attack on Passenger Train

Iraqi Positions Hit in Retaliation

LD151356 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 15, IRNA — Iranian artillery shelled Basra-Abu al-Khasib military road Wednesaday night destroying scores of Iraqi trucks with enemy troops aboard them in retaliation for a Wednesday air attack on an Iranian passenger train. The Iraqi convoy was carrying troops to reorganize the seventh corps, stationed in Al-Faw Peninsula, when it was reconnoitered and shelled.

Iraqi warplanes raided an Iranian pessenger train near Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Wednesday martyring and wounding hundreds. In the retaliation attack at least 10 Iraqi vehicles were destroyed and 200 enemy soldiers aboard them killed.

The shelling was the first measure taken by Muslim forces of Iran in retaliation for the Iraqi air attack on the train.

Velayati on UN Note

LD151202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Following Iraq's repeated violation of humane principles and its attack on a passenger train that martyred and wounded a number of our dear compatriots, our correspondent has interviewed Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati. As you are aware, the Iraqi regime, by attacking a passenger train yesterday evening, has martyred and wounded a number of our civilian compatriots. Would you please explain what steps are being taken in order to expose such Iraqi moves?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In this connection we have sent a note to the UN Secretary General, and steps have been taken to contact the Nonaligned Movement. There have also been some consultations, and notes have been prepared for the Red Cross and other international forums; we have asked them to condemn this move decisively. Of course, our people know that this aggressor should be confronted by relying on popular forces and the succour of Almighty God, as they have successfully demonstrated so far. Ultimately, this will lead to our victory against the aggressor.

At the same time, it is our political task to expose the true face of this aggressor in the international arena who has attacked the territory of the Islamic Republic. On the other hand, officials of some countries, who are not aware of this regime's nature, ask us to terminate the war. Our reply has been the same: As long as this regime remains in power, the region will not see any peace. It might be difficult to justify such a remark to these officials unless we can present some facts and clear examples on the nature of this regime in international arena. By doing so we can prove our righteous stance to the countries and nations of the world. [end recording]

UN Asked To Investigate

LD151525 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry here Thursday called on the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to dispatch a delegation here and investigate Iraq's bombing of a passenger train. Four Iraqi war planes attacked an Iranian passenger train in Hasht-Tappeh, Khuzestan Province three times and martyred and wounded more than 300 people. Several houses were also destroyed during the raid.

Earlier Iran's representative to the United Nations Seyyed Rajaie-Khorasani had told a news conference in New York that the Iraqi attack was an "unprecedented criminal attack... which will not be allowed to go unpunished."

Railways Chief Interviewed

GF151522 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Mr Afshar, chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's railways, was interviewed by the correspondent of the Central News Unit. He gave details and the latest news on the dastardly attack by aircraft of the Saddam regime upon the passenger train and civilians of Haft Tappeh.

He said: Yesterday at 1615 [1345 GMT], the first express train from Ahvaz to Tehran was attacked in Haft-Tappeh station by planes of the aggressive Iraqi regime. As a result of this savage act, a number of innocent passengers on the train and workers at the station, as well as families living in nearby houses, were martyred. Included among the martyrs were women and innocent children who lost their lives, totally defenseless against the fire.

He commented on the number of casualties of this horrendous crime by the ruling regime of Baghdad and said: According to reports, 17 workers of the railways and their families were martyred. Nearly 60 civilians, including passengers aboard the train and those living in Haft-Tappeh, also lost their lives in this heartbreaking incident. The blessed bodies of these martyrs were pulled out of the fires engulfing the remains of the train cars. The number of wounded has reached 250. They were taken to medical centers by local rescue workers and rescue teams from the railways.

The chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's railways said: Through the efforts of the technical staff at the railroad offices, the rail lines at the station have been repaired. At present the rail services between Tehran and Ahvaz are open. Passenger trains are continuing their normal services.

He stated that such criminal actions by the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq are the result of the weakness of Saddam and his total inability to confront the forces of Islam on the fronts.

He commented on the protest by Iran's railway services to international bodies and said: The Iranian railway services have sent a detailed telex to railways and members of the International Union of Train Services condemning the dastardly act of the

Iraqi regime which shows that regime's disregard for accepted humane and international laws. Iran has asked the chiefs of all international railways to condemn this type of terrorism which threatens security in transportation. These bodies have been asked to mention this horrifying crime in international circles to prevent this type of dangerous action.

61 Dead, 270 Injured

LD151433 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 15, IRNA — The casualty toll of the Wednesday's Iraqi raid on an Iranian passenger train reached 61 martyrs and 270 wounded Thursday Morning. Rescue teams are still busy taking out bodies of the victims out of the charred debris of the train compartments.

A large number of people whose relatives had been in the bombed train have gone to Hasht-Tappeh station to identify bodies of their families. Identification of martyrs has been difficult due to severe skin burns. People who have rushed to help the wounded are still searching among houses of railway staff in Hasht-Tappeh devasted in the bombing.

Meanwhile in Tehran director general of the Iranian railways, Sadeq Afshar sent a message to his foreign counterparts, members of the International Union of Railways, calling for the condemnation of the Iraqi bombing of the train. In his message the general director called for condemnation of such "terrorist acts which endanger the security of transportation." Afshar also expressed hope that the Union would take "immediate measures to restore the security of trains and passengers."

In another development from a hospital in Ahvaz, an injured passenger Layla Khadem, 9, told IRNA that she was at home when she heard a terrifying blast. She said her house was destroyed and her family transferred to hospital. Another wounded girl Layla Ismaili, 12, said she had witnessed the train being bombed by Iraqi planes and her house destroyed. Layla Ismaili has four brothers and three sisters whereabouts of whom, exept a sister, is unknown. Houses in the vicinity of the bombed train were destroyed when Iraqi war planes raided it in Hasht-Tappeh, a small town 87 kilometers north of Ahvaz and 20 kilometers south of Shush in Khuzestan Province.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD161218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] On the Friday of the holy month of Ramadan fasting Muslim compatriots today held the religious-political Friday prayers ceremonies throughout the country. The citizens of Tehran with their presence at Tehran University and the neighboring thoroughfares also performed the Friday prayers ceremonies today under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The Friday imam of Tehran in his second sermon recalled the great role of the clergy in the tobacco movement and said: In that movement, colonialist British imperialism faced the great spiritual might of our clergy and nation — something that stems from the power of Islam — and it was brought to its knees. For the same reason, the present fear that global arrogance is experiencing with regard to the Islamic Republic is something natural. This is because it has become aware of the power of Islam and source of emulation of Islam.

The Friday imam of Tehran went on to describe colonial plots against Islamic nations in the course of history and recalled the anniversary of the occupation of Palestine by the regime occupying Al-Quds [Jerusalem]. He sharply criticized the silence of the reactionary Arab governments toward the acts of aggression by the regime occupying Al-Quds. He said: In order to fight Islam, world powers have no alternative but to strengthen Israel. The reactionary Arab governments who claim that their silence in the face of Israel's aggressions is backed by their nations will find out, if they hold a referendum, that most Arab nations are determined to wage an armed struggle against Israel and bear all resulting difficulties.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council went on: The same Arab states that made it possible for Israel to engage in further aggression against Arab territories are now telling us to make peace with Saddam. They want us to make peace with a Zionist enemy to enable it to prepare itself for further acts of aggression. Arab states must know that the obligation in the face of acts of aggression by Israel and by the Zionist Iraqi regime is one thing, namely, resistance to and struggle against those two regimes. The PLO, too, must embark upon true struggle against the regime occupying Al-Quds rather than making deals through diplomatic means.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council recalled the Iraqi air raid on a passenger train and noted: Islam does not allow us to [words indistinct]. The Iraqi air raid on a passenger train stems from its military weakness and desperation of the Zionist Iraqi regime. If it could withstand our Armed Forces it would not have attacked our passenger train. We shall avenge the blood of the martyrs of the passenger train.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to Iraqi air attacks on residential and civilian targets. He said: We are better prepared now than last year to strike at the heart of Baghdad. Our nation becomes stronger in the face of pressure and threat, as it demonstrated in the monumental march on the occasion of the International Al-Quds Day last year.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin then turned to America's threats in the Persian Gulf. He stressed: We shall regard any American aggressive presence in the Persian Gulf as a war against our nation, and if necessary we shall deliver our blows at the body of the great satan.

Majlis Speaker Reviews Defense Council Meeting

GF160808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council in a meeting yesterday evening discussed the general situation at the battlefronts and the future of the imposed war. At this meeting Quds security

battalions, money allocations for the Armed Forces, arms purchases for defense purposes, and certain other purchases were discussed. After the meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Supreme Defense Council spokesman, gave an interview to our correspondent on the imposed war. We draw our listeners' attention to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, please tell us what topics were discussed at the Supreme Defense Council meeting and what were the results?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We discussed the situation at the battlefronts, the operations, and the future course of war. The Quds battalions for security were discussed, and a report on this by an advisory committee was discussed. Another topic discussed concerned monetary allocations for the Armed Forces and arms purchases for defense purposes and other consumer purchases.

[Correspondent] As we are aware, after the successes achieved in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations the Iraqi Army has (?expanded) its operations at the frontlines in the northern and southern sectors. What is the opinion of the Supreme Defense Council regarding these new (?actions) by the Iraqi Army?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We did not discuss this particular matter. However, I personally feel that after the recent defeats sustained by Iraq in the "Val-Fajr-8" and "Val-Farj-9" operations, it must face the question of its military credit, which has been shattered. The other factor could be the slowing down of its supporters, who (?are beginning to doubt) the survival of Iraq, and that of the survival of the Ba'thist Party. Another reason may be that they doubt their future. Now, the way we have chosen — the mass mobilization under orders of the imam — seems to have been our only choice [words indistinct] (?seeing this) they must be convinced that we still have enough power. (?Iraq) now wants to restore its lost credit. [Words indistinct] as we understand all these Iraqi actions amount to bravado. Iraq is certainly under pressure and is helpless. It seems Iraq has been forced to take such actions, such as attacking a train behind the battlefronts. Iraq also hit the cities [words indistinct]. Iraq is in fact in dire straits. Such adventurism is an escape from the difficulties Iraq faces. Iraq, it seems, wants to raise dust and noise through which it may find a means to escape. [Words indistinct] we have made plans, we have mobilized our forces so that we may achieve our objectives. However, all of Iraq's adventurism is not likely to last for long because we believe it will not have the means to continue such acts for very long. We will continue our programs as before, according to the times and place set for them. We believe that there are no obstacles in our way.

[Correspondent] As you have already said, in view of the Iraqi attacks on the nonmilitary targets — which occurred several times, like the recent Iraqi attack on the passenger train — what would be the government's position on crushing such Iraqi attacks?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are forced to defend our policy of similar retaliation. We have adopted this policy as part of our defense system. When defense needs dictate, we must do what Iraq has done against us. This would convince them that we have not neglected our defense. For example, our recent air raid on the Kirkuk oil installations, which no doubt is a sensitive point in Iraq, or attacking it a few more times, should convince Iraq what the future holds. Such attacks would cut Iraq's oil production. This attack was also in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on our economic and oil centers. We retaliated. We must also respond to the attack on the train. Whatever they do, we will retaliate.

[Correspondent] Recently certain U.S. officials have been saying things about this region, and especially about our country. Although there have been similar statements before, we would like to hear your views on the very recent events.
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not consider this matter something new, because as regards terrorism, the Americans are very much involved, and so are their friends. If one must define terrorism, the Americans and the Western countries will have front row seats among the accused. We do not believe that the Americans would involve themselves with Iran in direct confrontation. They are aware of Iranian power; they know the influence enjoyed by the spiritual leader of Iran. They know that forces around the world would make sacrifices for Iran. We do not believe that they would be naive enough to involve themselves in a new adventure. However, such propaganda is food for Americans. They use propaganda to achieve certain ends and objectives. These are colonial objectives. They must malign certain countries. These imperialist media are waging wars of nerves. At certain times they might also engaged in adventurism — hence the need for such propaganda. We hope that the Americans will have know enough not to take such risks, but we are quite prepared that should they take such naive actions or involve themselves, we would be able to defend ourselves. In fact, we do not think there will be such an occasion.

[Correspondent] As we are aware, there have been much propaganda and threats against Syria — our brother country — by the Zionist regime and the United States. What is the Iranian position should Israel attack Syria?
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is natural that we would support Syria. We would render all possible help to Syria.

[Correspondent] A last question on the Iraqi violations of Iranian air space: Please tell us your views on this matter.
[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As I have already said, Iraq, under pressure, might again start a war against our cities. I cannot say at the moment if recent actions might be the beginning of such a war. Whatever Iraq has done this time, it must know that our own capabilities for a war of cities are much greater than they were before. In fact, some of our guns can now reach about 50 km into Iraqi territory. Iraq knows that we could hit Umm Qasr or (Al-Sha'iriyah). Iraq should know that we have modern artillery. Iraq also knows our rocket capability. It has seen our air capability. We can hit Baghdad if we want to, like Kirkuk, which we hit yesterday. Iraq knows all this. However, this does not mean Iraq will not take up new adventurism.

We believe that since Iraq is under pressure and is in dire straits, it could lose its balance and engage in foolish actions. We hope such an occasion will never arise, and that the situation will remain as it is — apart from certain rare incidents. However, if such an occasion does arise we will, against our will, put our plans into action, although we would regret such actions. But what else could we do? If Iraq leaves us no alternative and forces us to take

up such defense actions, we will do so. If Iraq forces us, we will do it. [end recording]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Black Out in Tehran

LD151714 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — Anti-aircraft guns in Tehran went into action Thursday evening during a fifteen minute black out. No bombings has been reported.

An Iraqi warplane which tried to violate the airspace of the Capital Thursday was forced to flee by tactical movement of Iranian jet fighters, reports reaching here said.

Iraqi warplanes last bombed an oil installations in Tehran May 7 Martyring five civilians and wounding a number of others.

Iraq had agreed to a U.N.-sponsored initiative to cease military attacks on civilian areas June, 1984.

Further on Black Out

LD152105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] At 2015 this evening a red alert was sounded in Tehran and the city was blacked out. An informed military source said in an interview with IRNA about the reasons for the alert. Following the report about a suspicious object approaching Tehran's airspace, suspected to be an enemy aircraft, the red alert was sounded in order to prevent possible danger and confrontation of the enemy intrusion. The military source added: The condition was reported normal when the absence of any danger was ascertained.

Attack on Haj 'Umran Repulsed

LD151208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1036 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] According to a report of the Khatam ol-Anbiya', the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolutiom Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave combatants of Islam, in continuation of yesterday's heavy battle in the Haj 'Umran operational sector which fully replused the enemy's desperate move in this region and annihilated their forces, last night and this morning fully crushed all enemy moves in this sector, thanks to their unprecedented vigilance and steadfastness.

During last night's clashes, in addition to destroying several more battalions of the Iraqi defeated Armed Forces, hundreds more enemy troops were either killed or wounded, bringing to over 2,500 the total number of the enemy losses during the clashes over the past 2 days in the Haj 'Umran operational sector. Right now, many enemy corpses from these clashes are visible on the heights and valleys of the region.

Also last night, the warriors of Islam captured several more enemy troops among whom there are several Iraqi officers and NCO's. During yesterday's clashes, the warriors of Islam, in addition to destroying up to 50 percent of two commando brigades from the 1st and 7th Corps of the Iraqi Armed Forces, smashed and routed the 2d, 1st, and 3d Battalions of the 433d Brigade; 2 battalions from the 431st Brigade; 1st 2d, and 3d Battalions from the 604th Brigade; and one battalion of the 703d Brigade of the forces of Baghdad's Ba'thist-Zionist regime. Heavy losses were inflicted on these battalions.

Further Details on Haj 'Umran

LD161123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in continuation of clashes between the blasphemy-smashers of the monotheist army and the godless Saddamist forces in the Haj 'Umran region, the ever-victorious forces of Islam, killed or wounded over 1,000 troops of the defeated Iraqi Army last night in the course of a heavy battle by attacking the positions of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Baghdad's forces, destroying enemy equipment, weaponry, and communication facilities. Thus, the total enemy casualties in the course of the past 3 days' clashes in the operational sector of Haj 'Umran is more than 3,500.

Also, in the course of last night's operations, a further number of enemy troops were captured by the combatants of Islam, and up to now 15 of them have been transferred behind the fronts. In last night's operations by the combatants of Islam the latter also succeeded in destroying the Al-Ta'min Command Battalion of the disintegrated Iraqi forces and inflicted some deadly blows on the 89th and 431st Infantry Brigades of the enemy.

Communique No 2,471

LD151755 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — Iranian naval forces intercepted and inspected a cargo ship sailing under foreign flag near the Hormuz Strait Wednesday but allowed it to continue voyage after being satisfied that it was carrying no Iraq-bound goods, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 2471 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the navy continued its special and defensive sea patrols Wednesday.

In the western fronts, the communique said, Iranian artillery fire set ablaze some Iraqi positions, destroyed two trucks and inflicted losses to enemy. Reconnaissance flight of Iraqi helicopters and warplanes in these fronts were also checked.

It said artillery duels continued in the southern fronts raging more heavily in Sharhani, Bejliyeh and Zobeydah. At 03:10 hours Wednesday (12:40 hours GMT Tuesday) Islamic forces of Iran captured the first embankment and headquarters of an

enemy battalion in Sharhani, the communique said. Iranian patrols, the communique said, infiltrated enemy positions in a part of the southern front and set ablaze a fuel tank and one munitions dump. The patrols all returned to their bases safely.

In Eynkhosh, southern fronts, an Iraqi patrol units was shelled and forced to flee after sustaining casualties and losses, the communique said.

In Hoseyniyeh and Chananeh, Iraqi tanks fire were silenced and engineering operations of enemy forces halted, according to the communique.

The communique said over the past few days, Iraq's Sho'ibiyeh military base and Al-Harithah power station have been hit by Iranian long range artillery fire.

Meanwhile, Iraqi artillery fire on the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, damaged 29 houses and shops as well as one mosque.

Iraqi Helicopter 'Center' Bombed

LD160858 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 16 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers hit a concentration center of Iraqi helicopters in Rawanduz, Irbil Province north of Iraq, at 06:15 local time (02:45 GMT) Friday. A joint staff communique released here said that the bombed area was 10 miles west of Rawanduz by coordinates of 36.39 degrees north and 44.32 degrees east. The Iranian fighter-bombers inflicted heavy damage and casualties on the Iraqi forces and all returned to their bases safely, the communique added.